

To the Worthy and Industrious Inhabitants of the town of Cambridge.

GENTLEMEN,
YOU are well aware that there is a bill now depending in Parliament, to amend and enlarge the powers of an Act passed in the 28th year of the Reign of his present Majesty, for the better Paving, Cleansing, and Lighting this Town.

In this new Act there are divers Clauses that are very obnoxious and injurious to the Interests of the industrious part of the Inhabitants; and a Petition has been set on foot to oppose the said Bill; but it is suggested that it is not meant to strike at the root of the Grievance most complained of, the additional 6d. in the Pound, proposed by Mr. Mortlock, but against the Clauses respecting the Duty on Wine, and the exonerating the Corporation from the expences of Paving, Cleansing, and Lighting, and repairing the Bridges, Wharfs, and Roads within the said Town, on payment of 10l. a year only, instead of their usual Quota.

The great objects of a Petition of the Inhabitants of this Town, I conceive, ought to have been not only against the Clauses laying a duty on Wine and exonerating the Corporation, but against the additional 6d. in the Pound on the inhabitants of this Town; and also, that the Commissioners for the town should be increased, there being, out of 72 Commissioners appointed by the former Act, only 14 for the different parishes, so that the Town Commissioners have it not in their power effectually to oppose any proposition that may be made to the prejudice of the Inhabitants of the Town; and I cannot help thinking it the most unprecedented Act that has ever been attempted in any place, to assess the Inhabitants 6d. in the Pound, both against their wishes, against the Petitions of the Inhabitants of each Parish, and of the Votes of the Commissioners for the different Parishes, particularly, when it does appear there is a sufficient Income to pay the interest of the Town quota of 4000l. the sum first intended to be borrowed, and which sum, it is confidently asserted, is to be increased to 10,000l. 6000l. of which the Town will have to raise, without ever being asked their Consent thereto. Out of respect to the inhabitants of this Town, I thought proper to publish this Address to them, that they may not neglect the opportunity of opposing the additional tax of 6d. in the Pound, the other objectionable clauses being already petitioned against.

This is not a time to lay new Taxes for beautifying a town, when we know not what we may be called upon for by our Country, to defend our Lives and our Properties, our valuable Constitution, our King, Country, and Laws, from the attempts of the real enemies of all mankind.

Almost all the Inhabitants of this large town are against the tax of 6d. I therefore submit it to the town, whether it would not be proper, without loss of time, to instruct the managers and promoters of the Petition, and those Members who will do the town the honour of attending the Committee of the House of Commons in its favour, to have the clause rejected, respecting the additional tax, and to have a clause inserted, for the different parishes to elect a greater number of Commissioners.

CAMBRIDGE, March 27th, 1794.

JOHN HAGGERSTON,
a Commissioner for All Saints Parish.

P. S. I can see no right the Commissioners have, at their pleasure, to impose a new tax on those who are to pay it, contrary to their consent, for the purpose of beautifying the town and distressing the industrious inhabitants, when 1s. in the pound is sufficient for the purpose of paying the interest of the additional sum first intended to be borrowed.

Commissioners appointed by the former act as under:

For the University.	Corporation of Cambridge	County.	Town.
The Chancellor	1 High Steward	1 Twenty Gentlemen of	One for each Parish
High steward	1 Recorder or his Deputy	the County 20	In all only 14
Two Representatives in Parliament	2 Two Representatives in Parliament		
Vicechancellor or his Deputy	1 Mayor or his Deputy		
Fifteen Heads or Governors of Colleges or Halls, or in their absence their respective Deputies	12 Twelve Aldermen		
Commissary			
In all 21	In all 17		

In all 72 Commissioners.

So that any of the other three bodies can at all times out-vote the Parish Commissioners.

L.O. 13. 1²⁰

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